GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:768
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
ILLEGAL TRANS SHIPMENT OF INDIAN WORKERS
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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private companies/ recruitment agents are involved in the business of sending workers abroad illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received by the Government during the last three years and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether such workers are forced to live in unhygienic conditions and to face hardships;

(d) if so, the action taken against the erring agents/private companies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide legal and financial help to such workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (e): Complaints are received about illegal recruitment of Indian workers for employment abroad by unregistered recruiting agents which often results in their exploitation and harassment at the hands of law enforcing authorities and the employers. During the last three years complaints so filed and action taken against unregistered agents are as under:

COMPLAINTS AGAINST UNREGISTERED RECRUITING AGENTS

Year	No.of complaints	Prosecution Sanctions issued	Cases referred to State Government /POE for action
2005	53	8	45
2006	78	21	57
2007	41	7	34
2008	71	37	34

(30.9.2008)

On receipt of such complaints, the Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) are directed to file complaints/FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983.Further, whenever amnesty is declared, permitting illegal workers to return to India, by any foreign country, this Ministry co-ordinates with the Ministries of Home, External Affairs and Civil Aviation and the Indian missions abroad, to facilitate their return. Such repatriations on large scales have been facilitated from UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia etc.This Ministry also co-ordinates with the Indian missions abroad in resolving the problems of such workers by taking up issues of concern to them with the Foreign Employers and local authorities and provides appropriate assistance and support for repatriation of illegal emigrants from time to time.